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Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10
CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00
SIL-01 PM-05 SP-02 SS-15 DODE-00 PA-01 PRS-01
SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 /111 W
----------081980 021109Z /17
O R 020940Z NOV 77
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2479
INFO USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 17003

DEPT PASS DOL/ILAB

GENEVA PASS USILO PFEIFFER

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ILO, ELAB, JA
SUBJECT: REACTION TO ILO WITHDRAWAL

REF: STATE 261430

SUMMARY: MEDIA REACTION TO ANNOUNCEMENT OF US WITHDRAWAL FROM ILO WAS HEAVY, BUT REACTION OF GOJ AND BOTH MAJOR LABOR UNION FEDERATIONS, WHICH WERE PSYCHOLOGICALLY PREPARED FOR WITH-DRAWAL, WAS MODERATE. MOL WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHETHER USG WILL PAY FULL ASSESSMENT FOR CURRENT FISCAL YEAR OR WHETHER IT CONSIDERS FINANCIAL OBLIGATION TO END ON DAY OF WITH-DRAWAL. END SUMMARY.

1. UPI AND AP WIRE REPORTS OF PRESIDENTIAL DECISION TO WITHDRAW FROM ILO REACHED TOKYO IN TIME FOR INCLUSION IN NOVEMBER 1 EVENING PAPERS, ALL OF WHICH GAVE STORY FRONT-PAGE HEADLINES. GOJ REACTION WAS, IN CONTRAST, MODERATE. CHIEF CABINET SECRETARY SONODA, IN REGULARLY
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SCHEDULED NOVEMBER 2 PRESS CONFERENCE, READ FOLLOWING STATEMENT PREPARED BY MOFA (AND LATER SUPPLIED TO LABATT FOR BACKGROUND):

ALTHOUGH THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT HAD HOPED UNITED STATES WOULD REMAIN IN ILO, USG MUST HAVE HAD ITS OWN STAND TO TAKE AND IT MUST HAVE CONSIDERED THE VARIOUS FACTORS

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CAUTIOUSLY. AT GOVERNING BODY MEETING, GOJ, TOGETHER
WITH LIKE-MINDED NATIONS, WILL CARRY OUT STEADY EFFORTS
TO HAVE ILO FULFILL ITS BASIC OBJECTIVES. GOJ WOULD
STRONGLY WISH TO HAVE A SITUATION WHICH WOULD ENABLE
THE USG TO RE-AFFILIATE WITH ILO AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
END QUOTE.
WE UNDERSTAND FURTHER STATEMENTS MAY BE MADE BY BOTH
FONMIN AND LABMIN LATER IN WEEK.

2. REACTION BY JAPAN'S TWO LARGE LABOR FEDERATIONS,
DOMEI AND SOHYO, NEARLY AS MODERATE AS GOJ'S. DOMEI'S
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, WITH APPROVAL OF PRESIDENT AMAIKE
AND SECGEN MAEKAWA, ISSUED STATEMENT NOVEMBER 2 TERMING WITH-
DRAWAL "REGRETTABLE." WHILE SOHYO HAS NOT YET
ISSUED STATEMENT, IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF NOVEMBER 2,
SOHYO INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS DIRECTOR TERMED WITHDRAWAL
"VERY REGRETTABLE."

3. VICE MINISTER OF LABOR FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
IWATA INDICATED TO LABATT NOVEMBER 2 THAT, LIKE MOFA OFFI-
CIALS, MOL WAS PSYCHOLOGICALLY PREPARED FOR U.S. DECISION
TO WITHDRAW AND REACTED CALMLY TO PRESIDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENT.
IWATA WILL DEPART TOKYO TO ATTEND ILO GOVERNING BODY'S
MEETING ON NOVERMBER 5 AND REQUESTED LABATT TO ASCER-
TAIN WHETHER USG WOULD PAY ITS ENTIRE ILO ASSESSMENT FOR
CURRENT YEAR, OR WHETHER USG ASSUMED THAT ITS FINANCIAL
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RESPONSIBILITIES TERMINATED WITH EFFECTIVE DATE OF WITH-
DRAWAL. IWATA SAID MOL REGARDED QUESTION AS MOST IMPORTANT
AND WAS OF VIEW THAT USG MUST PAY FULL YEAR'S ASSESS-
MENT.

4. COMMENT: BOTH GOJ AND MAJOR JAPANESE LABOR FEDERA-
TIONS REGRET U.S. WITHDRAWAL, BUT THEIR REACTION TO PRESI-
DENT'S ANNOUNCEMENT WAS MODERATED BECAUSE THEY WERE PSYCHO-
LOGICALLY PREPARED FOR IT. MOL HAS ASSURED US JAPANESE
REPS IN ILO WILL MAKE STRONG EFFORT TO REFORM ILO IN
HOPES THAT U.S. WILL RETURN. AS REPORTED IN PREVIOUS MES-
SAGES, ILO, AMONG ALL UN SPECIALIZED AGENCIES,
HAS LONG OCCUPIED POSITION OF IMPORTANCE IN JAPANESE
EYES. THAT BEING CASE, WE CAN IN FACT EXPECT JAPANESE
REPRESENTATIVES TO CARRY THROUGH ON THEIR ASSURANCES.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: HOPE DEPARTMENT CAN PROVIDE ANSWER
TO QUERY IN PARA 3 BY COB NOVEMBER 4.
MANSFIELD

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TAGS: ELAB, JA, US, ILO
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